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Agency
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Environmental News

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Denver-- THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS
ADDED TWO FEDERALLY-OWNED FACILITIES TO THE FINAL
"SUPERFUND" NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL): AIR FORCE
PLANT PJKS IN COLORADO AND THE MONTICELLO MILL SITE IN
UTAH.

Air Force Plant PJKS covers about 464 acres and is located within a larger tract of land owned by Martin Marietta Company approximately twenty miles southwest of Denver, Colorado. Since 1957, the plant has assembled missiles, tested engines and conducted research for the Titan missile program. The operations included the use of several potentially hazardous substances-- chlorinated organic solvents for cleaning, and hydrazine-containing compounds used in fuels.

The Air Force has been investigating PJKS under its Installation Restoration Program (IRP). Five potentially contaminated areas have been identified by these investigations, including a containment pond, landfill site, and three areas where hazardous substances were spilled. Monitoring wells near these three areas have been found to contain potentially hazardous solvents and fuel residues.

Denver's Kassler Water Treatment plant has two shallow wells 1.8 miles away from the monitoring wells, along the path of natural flow. The Kassler plant and the two wells have not been used since 1986, but are maintained for emergencies. Thus far, no contaminants from the PJKS site have been detected at the Kassler plant.

Test results have also identified site-related contaminants in Brush Creek which flows to the South Platte River.

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Utah's Monticello Mill Site covers about 78 acres at the southern edge of Monticello in San Juan County. The site, owned by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), recovered vanadium and uranium ores from the Colorado Plateau from 1942 until 1960. Four huge tailings piles from those processes cover about 68 acres, and at least two of the piles have no liners to protect against infiltration into ground water supplies.

A 1988 USDOE report indicates that the shallow aquifer beneath the Monticello site is contaminated with arsenic, selenium, uranium and vanadium. Several municipal wells supplying drinking water to 1,900 people are located within three miles of the site, the closest being 1,200 feet.

The same report documents arsenic, vanadium, and uranium contamination of Montezuma Creek, which flows through the site. Radon has also been detected near the piles, posing an additional threat to neighboring residents, some of whom live about 1,000 feet from the site and have used tailings materials around their homes. These adjacent properties comprise a separate NPL site, the Monticello Vicinity Properties, which is being cleaned up together with the Mill Site by DOE under an agreement with EPA and the State of Utah.

EPA conducted a sixty day public comment period at the time the two sites were proposed for the NPL in mid-July of this year. No public comment was received and EPA is now adding the sites to the final NPL. Today's listing makes the sites eligible for more extensive cleanup studies and activities by the responsible Federal agency at each site.

NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS; Contact with the Utah Bureau of Solid and Hazardous Waste should be through Robert G. McLeod at 801-538-6170.